

Comparative Raman Studies of Sr_2RuO_4 , $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$

M. N. Iliev¹, V. N. Popov², A. P. Litvinchuk¹, M. V. Abrashev²,
J. Bäckström³, Y. Y. Sun¹, R. L. Meng¹, and C. W. Chu^{1,4}

¹Texas Center for Superconductivity and Advanced Materials,
and Department of Physics, University of Houston, Houston, Texas 77204-5002

²Faculty of Physics, University of Sofia, 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria

³Department of Applied Physics, Chalmers University of Technology, S-41296 Göteborg, Sweden

⁴Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China

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The polarized Raman spectra of layered ruthenates of the $\text{Sr}_{n+1}\text{Ru}_n\text{O}_{3n+1}$ ($n = 1, 2, 3$) Ruddlesden-Popper series were measured between 10 and 300 K. The phonon spectra of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ confirmed earlier reports for correlated rotations of neighboring RuO_6 octahedra within double or triple perovskite blocks. The observed Raman lines of A_g or B_{1g} symmetry were assigned to particular atomic vibrations by considering the Raman modes in simplified structures with only one double or triple RuO_6 layer per unit cell and by comparison to the predictions of lattice dynamical calculations for the real $Pban$ and $Pbam$ structures. Along with discrete phonon lines, a continuum scattering, presumably of electronic origin, is present in the zz , xx and xy , but not in the $x'y'$ and zx spectra. Its interference with phonons results in Fano shape for some of the lines in the xx and xy spectra. The temperature dependencies of phonon parameters of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ exhibit no anomaly between 10 and 300 K where no magnetic transition occur. In contrast, two B_{1g} lines in the spectra of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$, corresponding to oxygen vibrations modulating the Ru-O-Ru bond angle, show noticeable hardening with ferromagnetic ordering at 105 K, thus indicating strong spin-phonon interaction.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The properties of layered ruthenates $\text{Sr}_{n+1}\text{Ru}_n\text{O}_{3n+1}$ ($n = 1, 2, 3$), known as the Ruddlesden-Popper series, exhibit strong dependence on the number of RuO_6 octahedral layers. Sr_2RuO_4 ($n = 1$) is p -wave superconductor,[1, 2] $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ ($n = 2$) is nearly ferromagnetic (enhanced paramagnetic) metal,[3] whereas $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ ($n = 3$, $T_C = 105$ K) is a ferromagnetic metal.[5, 6] There are indications that the variations with n of the magnetic and transport properties of $\text{Sr}_{n+1}\text{Ru}_n\text{O}_{3n+1}$ are partly related to the structural distortions in $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$. While the structure of Sr_2RuO_4 is tetragonal ($I4/mmm$, No.139, Fig.1) and the Ru-O-Ru angle in the ab plane is 180° , the structures of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ ($Pban$, No.50) and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ ($Pbam$, No. 55) are orthorhombic due to correlated rotations about the c -axis of the neighboring corner-sharing octahedra within each layer of the double or triple perovskite blocks.[3, 4, 5, 6] These rotations result in decrease of the Ru-O-Ru angle in the ab plane to 166° for $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and 169° for the outer layers and 158° for the middle layers of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$, respectively. The Sr-based ruthenates, however, are less distorted than corresponding Ca-based compounds. Indeed, besides being rotated around the c axis, the RuO_6 octahedra in Ca_2RuO_4 ($Pbca$, No.61)[2] and $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ ($A2_1ma$, No.36) [7] are also tilted around an axis lying in the RuO_2 plane.

The coupling among the charge, lattice and spin degrees of freedom in $(\text{Ca}, \text{Sr})_{n+1}\text{Ru}_n\text{O}_{3n+1}$ compounds has been subject of several magnetotransport[3, 6], pressure[8, 9] and Raman[9, 10, 11, 12] studies. The

polarization-, temperature-, pressure- and substitution-dependent Raman spectra allowed observation of the two-magnon scattering, opening of the spin gap, and pressure- and substitution-induced variations in metal-insulator transition in Ca_2RuO_4 [9], $\text{Ca}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{RuO}_4$ [12] and $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ [9, 10], as well as spin gap and strong direction-dependent electron-phonon interaction in Sr_2RuO_4 [11]. The latter studies illustrated the ability of Raman scattering to provide information on the interplay of spin, charge, and lattice degrees of freedom. To our knowledge, there are yet no reports on the Raman spectroscopy of double-layer $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and triple-layer $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$. The Raman spectra of these materials and their variations with temperature are of definite interest as they contain information about the local structure, electron-phonon, spin-phonon interactions and their variations with the number of RuO_6 layers. An essential precondition for correct analysis and understanding of complex structure-properties relationships is the assignment of the Raman lines to particular atomic motions.

In this work we present results of comparative polarization- and temperature-dependent Raman studies of Sr_2RuO_4 , $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ between 10 and 300 K. The spectra of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ provide clear evidence for a structure containing correlated rotations of RuO_6 octahedra within perovskite blocks. On the basis of their symmetry, considering corresponding modes in simplified tetragonal structures, containing RuO_6 rotations, and by comparison to the predictions of lattice dynamical calculations (LDC) for the real orthorhombic $Pban$ and $Pbam$ structures, the observed Raman lines of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ are assigned to

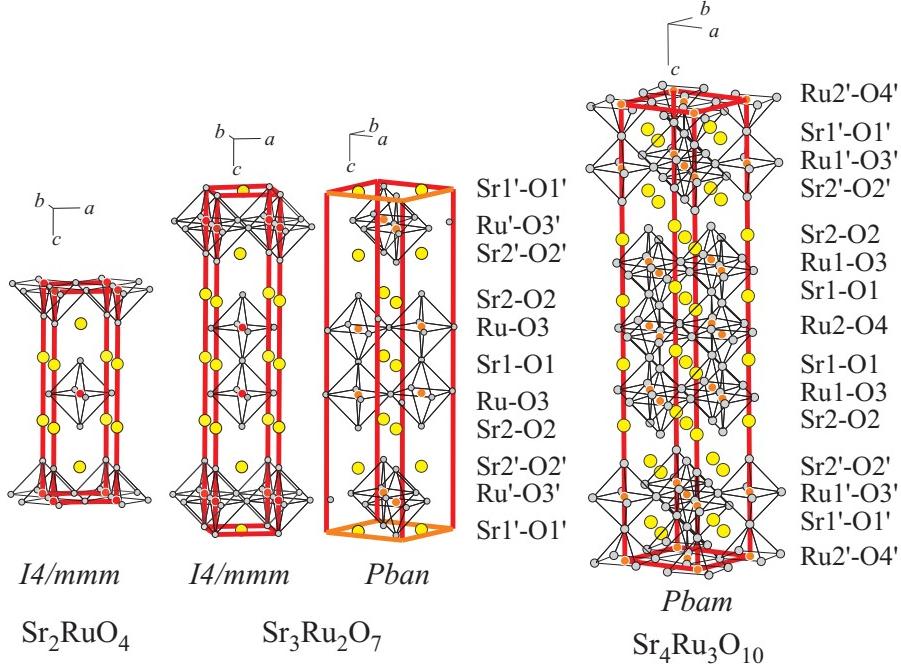


FIG. 1: Units cells of Sr_2RuO_4 ($I4/mmm$), $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ ($I4/mmm$ and $Pban$) and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ ($Pbam$).

definite phonon modes. Except for phonon lines, a continuum scattering, presumably of electronic origin, with components of A_g (xx and zz) and B_{1g} (xy) symmetry is present in the whole temperature range. Its interference with phonons results in Fano shape for some of the lines in the xx and xy spectra. Phonon anomalies related to magnetic ordering at $T_C = 105$ K are observed in the temperature-dependent spectra of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$.

II. SAMPLES, EXPERIMENTAL AND LATTICE DYNAMICAL CALCULATIONS

Rectangular platelet-like single crystals of $\text{Sr}_{n+1}\text{Ru}_n\text{O}_{3n+1}$ ($n = 1, 2, 3$) with typical size $1 \times 1 \times 0.2$ mm 3 were grown using SrCO_3 and RuO_2 as starting materials and SrCl_2 as a flux. The compositions Sr_2RuO_4 , $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$, and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ were obtained by varying the $\text{SrCO}_3:\text{SrCl}_2$ ratio and temperature profiles. The temperature profile was basically as follows: (1) Temperature increase to 1400–1500°C in 7 hours and then constant temperature for 25 hours; (2) Cooling down to 1250–1350°C at a rate of 2 deg/hour; (3) Further cooling to room temperature in 1 hour.

The x-ray diffraction showed that the lattice parameters of all three compounds corresponded to the ones known from the literature. It was also established and further confirmed by Raman polarization selection rules that the large surfaces of the crystal platelets were parallel to the (001) plane and their edges were along either

{100} or {110} directions.

Raman spectra were collected using Jobin-Yvon HR640 spectrometer equipped with microscope (100× or 50× objective, focus spot size 1–3 μm), notch filters and liquid-nitrogen-cooled charge-coupled device (CCD) detector. The He-Ne (632.8 nm) and Ar^+ (514.5 nm and 488.0 nm) laser lines were used for excitation. The lack of spurious signals from impurity phases was verified by the reproducibility of the spectra and their strict polarization. Given the crystallographic directions were known, measurements could be done in several exact backward scattering configurations: $z(xx)\bar{z}$, $z(yy)\bar{z}$, $z(xy)\bar{z}$, $z(x'x')\bar{z}$, $z(x'y')\bar{z}$, $y(zz)\bar{y}$, $y(zx)\bar{y}$, $y(xx)\bar{y}$, $y(x'x')\bar{y}$. The first and forth letters in these notations stay for the directions of incident and scattered light, whereas their polarizations are denoted by the second and third letters, respectively. As $x \equiv [100]$ and $y \equiv [010]$ are indistinguishable, x and y are interchangeable. The same is valid for $x' \equiv [110]$ and $y' \equiv [1\bar{1}0]$. Further, the short notations xx , zz , $x'x'$, $x'y'$ and zx will also be used.

The lattice dynamical calculations were done using a shell model described in detail in Ref.[13]. This model gives an adequate description of the vibrations in perovskitelike structures because it accounts for their predominant ionicity. The ionic interactions are represented by long-range Coulomb potentials and short-range repulsive potentials of the Born-Mayer form $a e^{-br}$ where a and b are constants and r is the interionic separation. The deformation of the electron charge density of the ions is described in the dipole approximation considering each

atom as consisting of a point charged core and a concentric spherical massless shell with charge Y . Each core and its shell are coupled together with a force constant k giving rise to the free ionic polarizability $\alpha = Y^2/k$. The model parameters for the strontium, ruthenium, and oxygen ions and their interaction potentials are taken from a previous study of simpler compounds with perovskitelike structure[13, 14].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Sr_2RuO_4

The polarized Raman spectra of Sr_2RuO_4 at room temperature as obtained with 488.0 nm excitation are shown in Fig.2. Three of the four ($2A_{1g} + 2E_g$) Raman allowed phonons are observed at 200 cm^{-1} (A_{1g} , Sr vibrations along z), 247 cm^{-1} (E_g , apex oxygen vibrations in the xy plane), and 545 cm^{-1} (A_{1g} , apex oxygen vibrations along z), in consistence with earlier reports of Udagawa et al.[15] and Sakita et al.[11]. The Raman phonon intensities I_ω exhibit clear resonant behavior. For example in the zz -polarized spectra the I_{545}/I_{200} ratio is 19.3 for 632.8 nm (1.96 eV), 4.2 for 514.5 nm (2.41 eV), and 3.5 for 488.0 nm (2.54 eV) excitations, respectively. In the xx polarized spectra the corresponding values are 2.1, 1.5, and 4.2. For all three excitation energies used, the $y(xx)\bar{y}$ and $z(xx)\bar{z}$ spectra were practically identical.

Except for the phonon lines, an electronic background was present in all spectra. The electronic Raman scattering for incident polarization parallel to the ab plane has previously been reported by Yamanaka et al.[16], who observed structureless continuum with A_{1g} , B_{1g} and B_{2g} components of comparable intensity. Our measurements have shown, however, that the $A_{1g}(xx)$ component of the continuum is much weaker than those of $B_{1g}(x'y')$ and $B_{2g}(xy)$ symmetry.

B. $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$

The orthorhombic $Pban$ structure of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ can be obtained from the idealized $I4/mmm$ structure (similar to Sr_2RuO_4 , see also Fig.1), by ordered counter-phase rotations of RuO_6 octahedra around the z -axis. The x and y axes of the $Pban$ structure are rotated by 45 degree with respect to those of the tetragonal one and the a and b -parameters are larger by factor $\sqrt{2}$. While ten Γ -point phonon modes ($4A_{1g} + B_{1g} + 5E_g$) are Raman-allowed in the tetragonal $I4/mmm$ structure of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$, much more modes ($12A_g + 16B_{1g} + 22B_{2g} + 22B_{3g}$) are Raman-allowed in the $Pban$ structure due to the doubling of unit cell, absence of the cell centering and appearance of new modes related to RuO_6 rotations. One should not expect, however, observation of such a large number of Raman lines, as to each A_{1g} , B_{1g} or E_g tetragonal mode one can juxtapose a pair of two A_g , two B_{1g} or $B_{2g} + B_{3g}$

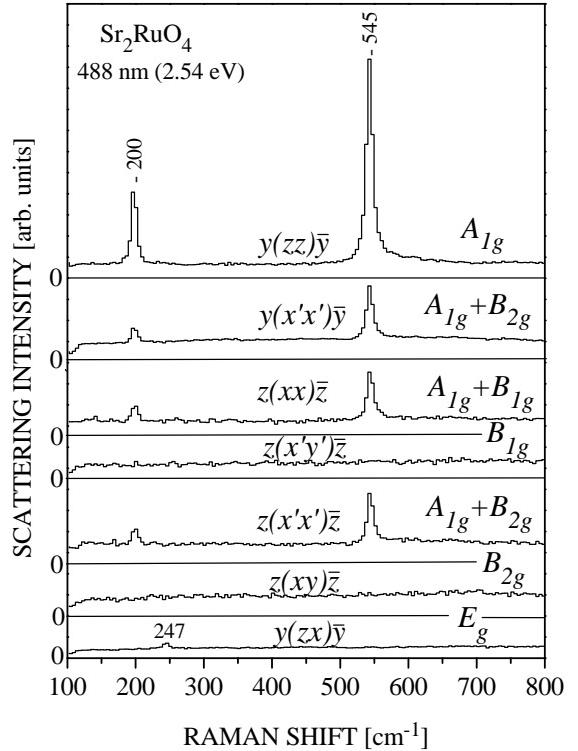


FIG. 2: Polarized Raman spectra of Sr_2RuO_4 , obtained at room temperature with 488 nm excitation. A continuum background is present in all spectra.

orthorhombic modes, which involve practically the same atomic vibrations and have very close frequencies (see Table I for LDC of the A_g and B_{1g} modes). Experimentally, these pairs will be observed as a single line.

Polarized Raman spectra of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ measured at room temperature with 633 nm, 515 nm and 488 nm laser line excitation are shown in Fig. 3. Five lines of A_g symmetry are clearly pronounced in the xx and zz spectra at 118, 165, 212, 395, and 577 cm^{-1} . Another two lines of B_{1g} symmetry are seen in the xy spectra at 306 and 377 cm^{-1} , but no lines of detectable intensity are observed in the $zx(zy)$ spectra where are allowed the modes of $B_{2g}(B_{3g})$ symmetry. The intensity of the Raman lines changes with excitation energy due to alteration of the resonance conditions. The relative intensities of the A_g line at 395 cm^{-1} and the two B_{1g} lines, however, remain nearly the same. This suggests that the three modes involve motions of same type of atoms, different from those with main contribution to the A_g mode at 577 cm^{-1} . The number of Raman lines in the spectra of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ is noticeably lower than in the corresponding spectra of $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$.[10] This had to be expected as the structure of $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ is more strongly distorted and the number of fully symmetrical modes allowed in xx , yy and zz configurations is higher.

A simple approach to the assignment of the Raman lines is based on the reasonable assumption for weak in-

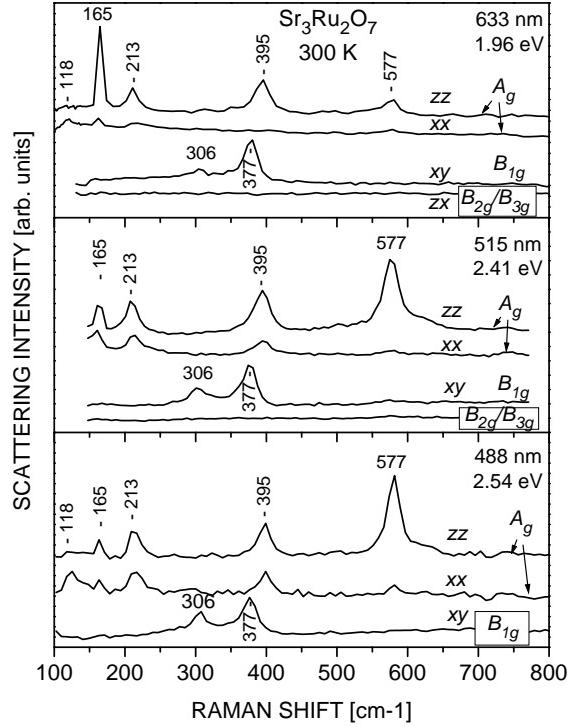


FIG. 3: Polarized Raman spectra of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$, obtained at room temperature with 633 nm, 515 nm, and 488 nm excitation. Some curves are shifted vertically for clarity.

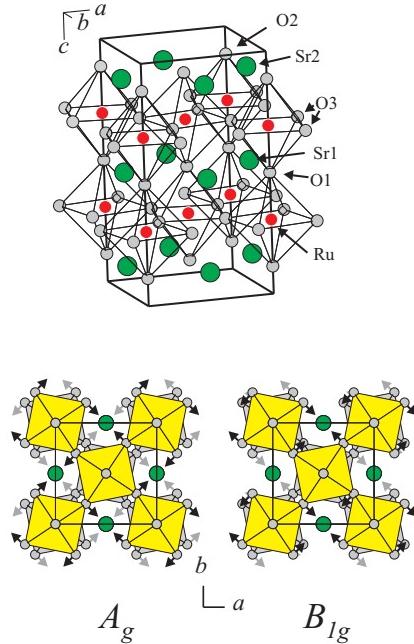


FIG. 4: Simplified distorted structure ($P4/nbm$) of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ with elementary cell containing one double Ru-O layer. The distortion-activated A_g and B_{1g} modes are also shown.

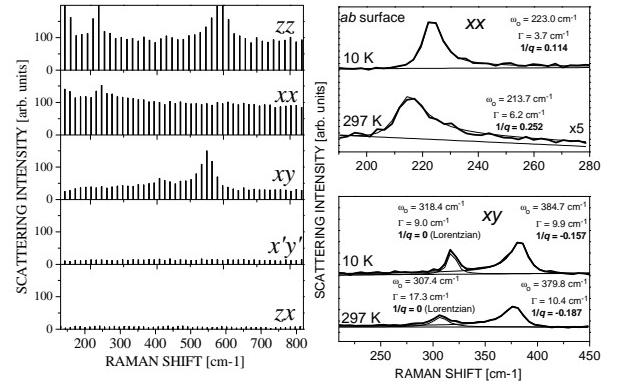


FIG. 5: Left panel: Continuum scattering from $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ as obtained with 633 nm excitation for several exact scattering configurations; Right panels: Fano fit of the $213/223 \text{ cm}^{-1} A_g$ (xx) and $377/384 \text{ cm}^{-1} B_{1g}$ lines. The fit parameters are also given.

teraction between the double Ru-O slabs, the only important distortion being the rotation of the RuO_6 octahedra. Within such assumption, instead of the real $Pban$ structure, one can consider a simplified structure with elementary cell containing only one double layer (Fig.4). This structure is tetragonal ($P4/nbm$, No.125, $Z=2$) with the same a and b parameters as the real one, but twice shorter c parameter. The normal mode analysis gives $5A_{1g} + B_{1g} + 4B_{2g} + 11E_g$ Raman modes. Therefore one expects in the xx and zz spectra five Raman lines of A_g symmetry (A_{1g} in tetragonal notations), which is exactly the case. In the xy spectra one expects observation of four B_{1g} modes (B_{2g} in tetragonal notations), two of them involving mainly oxygen vibrations.

The Raman mode frequencies in ionic materials, such as transition metal oxides, are determined by the mass, charge, and bond lengths of participating atoms as well by the type of atomic motions (stretching, bending or rotational). Based on comparison to other perovskitelike oxides, the modes involving mainly vibration of heavier Ru and Sr or rotational vibrations of oxygens are expected in the frequency range below 250 cm^{-1} , the bending oxygen modes - between 200 and 500 cm^{-1} and stretching oxygen modes - above 500 cm^{-1} . Our LDC for the $Pban$ structure (Table I) predict that the A_g modes below 250 cm^{-1} are strongly mixed, each involving vibrations along z of Ru and Sr2 as well as RuO_6 rotations around z . In the $I4/mmm$ structure, however, the rotational motions (see Fig.4), are not Raman active. Therefore, the 165 cm^{-1} and 213 cm^{-1} lines, which are close to LDC frequencies predicted for both $Pban$ and $I4/mmm$ structures, can tentatively be assigned to mixed vibrations of Ru and Sr along z . The line at 118 cm^{-1} is close to the LDC($Pban$) frequency of 117 cm^{-1} , which has no partner in the LDC($I4/mmm$) data, is assigned to mainly RuO_6 rotations. The "soft"-mode temperature

behavior of the latter line is also typical for a rotational mode. As to the two high-frequency A_g modes, with great certainty, confirmed by LDC, they correspond to out-of-plane in-phase vibrations of O3 (395 cm^{-1}) and stretching vibrations of O2 (577 cm^{-1}). The latter frequency is higher than that of the corresponding apex oxygen vibrations in Sr_2RuO_4 (545 cm^{-1}), which can be explained accounting the bond-length changes. Indeed, it is plausible to assume that the force constants $k_{\text{O}-\text{M}}$ between O and the ion M follows the simple $Z_{\text{O}}Z_{\text{M}}/r_{\text{O}-\text{M}}^3$ relation, where Z_{O} and Z_{M} are the charges of the oxygen and cation, respectively, and $r_{\text{O}-\text{M}}$ is the oxygen-cation bond length. This relation is valid for harmonic ionic crystals and shown to apply for perovskitelike transition metal oxides.[17, 18]. Taking into account that $\omega^2 = k/m$ and restricting interactions to only nearest-neighbors (Ru and Sr), one obtains for the O2 stretching vibrations

$$\omega^2 \propto Z_{\text{Ru}}/r_{\text{O}-\text{Ru}}^3 + Z_{\text{Sr}}/r_{\text{O}-\text{Sr}}^3 \quad (1)$$

where $Z_{\text{Ru}} = 4$, $Z_{\text{Sr}} = 2$, and the values of $r_{\text{O}-\text{Ru}}$ and $r_{\text{O}-\text{Sr}}$ are respectively 2.016 \AA and 2.459 \AA for $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ [4] and 2.059 \AA and 2.440 \AA for Sr_2RuO_4 [19]. Using these values one obtains $\omega_{\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7}/\omega_{\text{Sr}_2\text{RuO}_4} = 1.045$, which is close to the experimental ratio of 1.059.

There is little doubt too, that the two experimentally observed lines in the xy spectra correspond to the two oxygen B_{2g} modes of the distorted $P4/nbm$ structure. The main atomic motions are out-of-phase vibrations along z of O3 (306 cm^{-1}) and "scissors-like" bendings of O3 parallel to the xy plane (377 cm^{-1}). The shape of the latter mode is also shown in Fig.4.

Along with the phonon lines, a structureless background of $A_g(zz$ and xx), and B_{1g} (xy) symmetry, but not of B_{2g}/B_{3g} (zx or zy) symmetry, is also present in the spectra. This is illustrated in Fig.5 for room temperature spectra taken with 633 nm excitation. The observation of relatively strong zz -polarized continuum was somewhat unexpected as the ARPES measurements[20] and band structure calculations[21] provide evidence for quasi-two-dimensional Fermi-surface sheets, in consistency with reports for large anisotropy of the electrical resistivity ($\rho_z/\rho_{xy} \approx 40$ at 300 K)[3]. The continuum-phonons interference is clearly pronounced only for incident radiation parallel to the xy plane through Fano shape of the 213 cm^{-1} A_g line in the xx spectra and the 377 cm^{-1} B_{1g} line in the xy spectra (Fig.5). For a phonon coupled to electronic background, the Fano profile $I(\omega) = I_0(\epsilon + q)^2/(1 + \epsilon^2)$ is generally used to describe the line shape, where $\epsilon = (\omega - \omega_0)/\Gamma$, ω_0 is the "bare" phonon frequency, Γ is the linewidth, and q is the asymmetry parameter, $1/q \propto V$ reflects the electron-phonon interaction V . While for an uncoupled phonon $1/q = 0$, the increase of electron-phonon interaction increases $|1/q|$. The values of ω_0 , Γ , and $1/q$ as obtained from the Fano fit of the experimental line profiles are listed in Fig.5.

Fig.6 shows the temperature-dependent zz , xx and xy Raman spectra of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ between 10 K and 300 K .

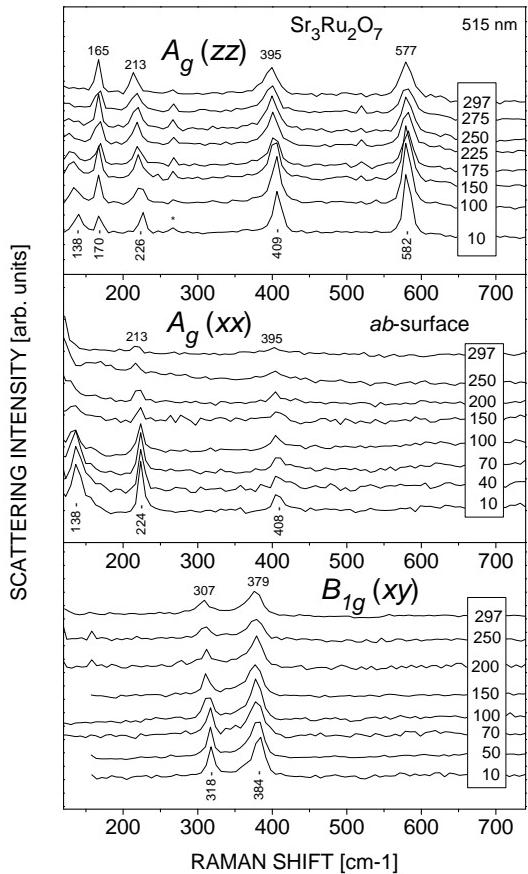


FIG. 6: Temperature-dependent polarized Raman spectra of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ between 10 and 300 K obtained with 515 nm excitation.

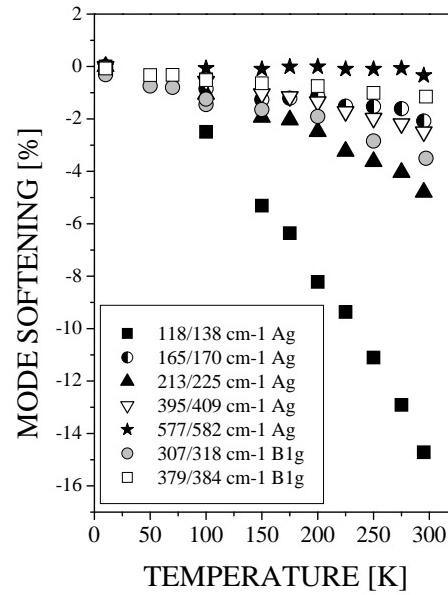


FIG. 7: Variations with T of the relative changes $[\omega(T) - \omega(10)]/\omega(10)$ of the A_g mode frequencies in $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$.

TABLE I: Calculated (for the $Pbam$ and $I4/mmm$ structures) and experimentally observed A_g/A_{1g} and B_{1g} phonon frequencies in $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$.

Mode	LDC $Pbam$	Exp $Pbam$	Atomic motions	Mode	LDC $I4/mmm$	Mode	$P4/nbm$
$A_g(1)$	117	118/138	RuO_6 rot			A_{1g}	
$A_g(2)$	179	165/170	$\text{Ru}(z)$, $\text{Sr}(z)$	A_{1g}	180	A_{1g}	
$A_g(3)$	210	213/225	$\text{Sr}(z)$, $\text{Ru}(z)$	A_{1g}	214	A_{1g}	
$A_g(4)$	223	213/225					
$A_g(5)$	250						
$A_g(6)$	254						
$A_g(7)$	402	395/409	$\text{O}3(z)$	A_{1g}	512	A_{1g}	
$A_g(8)$	402	395/409					
$A_g(9)$	520						
$A_g(10)$	522						
$A_g(11)$	580	577/581	$\text{O}2(z)$	A_{1g}	589	A_{1g}	
$A_g(12)$	580	577/581					
$B_{1g}(1)$	108						
$B_{1g}(2)$	109						
$B_{1g}(3)$	162					B_{2g}	
$B_{1g}(4)$	162					B_{2g}	
$B_{1g}(5)$	181					B_{2g}	
$B_{1g}(6)$	181					B_{2g}	
$B_{1g}(7)$	337	306/316	$\text{O}3(z, -z)$	B_{1g}	310	B_{2g}	
$B_{1g}(8)$	337	306/316				B_{2g}	
$B_{1g}(9)$	378	377/380	$\text{O}3(xy)$			B_{2g}	
$B_{1g}(10)$	378	377/380				B_{2g}	
$B_{1g}(11)$	466						
$B_{1g}(12)$	466						
$B_{1g}(13)$	521						
$B_{1g}(14)$	521						
$B_{1g}(15)$	726						
$B_{1g}(16)$	726						

The variations of phonon frequencies and line widths with temperature exhibit no anomalies. The relative changes of frequency for all observable modes are summarized in Fig.7. The low frequency A_g mode shows "soft"-mode behavior, its frequency decreasing by $\approx 15\%$ between 10 and 300 K, while the frequency of the highest mode remains practically unchanged. The continuum scattering in the zz , xx and xy spectra only slightly decreases with lowering temperature, in contrast to the case of $\text{Ca}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$, where a rapid suppression of the electronic background of B_{1g} symmetry has been observed below the metal-insulator transition at $T_{MI} \approx 48$ K.[10] The interaction between the continuum and phonons also decreases with lowering temperature, as evidenced from Fig.5, where are compared the $1/q$ values at 10 and 300 K.

C. $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$

The structure of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ has been refined as $Pbam$.[5] From symmetry considerations in total 96 ($20A_g + 20B_{1g} + 28B_{2g} + 28B_{3g}$) modes are Raman allowed. Like in the case of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$, however, most modes are practically degenerated in pairs and lower

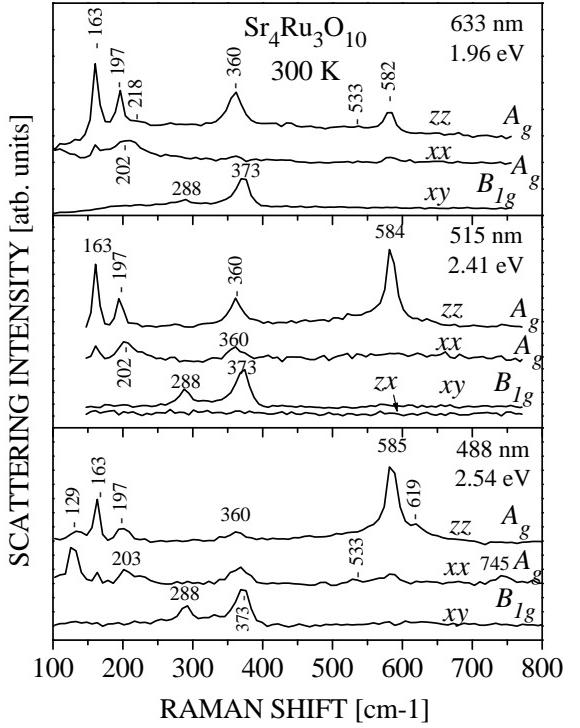


FIG. 8: Polarized Raman spectra of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$, obtained at room temperature with 633 nm, 515 nm, and 488 nm excitation. Some curves are shifted vertically for clarity.

number of Raman lines is expected in the spectra. Fig.8 shows the zz , xx , xy and zx spectra obtained at room temperature with 633 nm, 515 nm, and 488 nm excitation. The temperature variations of the spectra between 10 and 300 K are given in Fig.9. Except for line shifts and appearance of additional weak lines, the spectral profiles and their dependence on scattering configuration and excitation wavelength resembles that of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$. Lines of A_g symmetry are observed at room temperature 129, 163, 195-203, 360-365, 533, 582-585, 619 and 745 cm^{-1} . The broad structure near 200 cm^{-1} in the xx spectra appears to be a superposition of two lines. This becomes evident at low temperatures where these two line are well separated. Like in the case of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$, only two lines of B_{1g} symmetry are pronounced and the intensity of the B_{2g} and B_{3g} lines is below the detection limit.

To assign the Raman lines to particular phonon modes let us again consider the Raman modes in a simplified distorted tetragonal structure and compare the experimental frequencies to the prediction of lattice dynamical calculations for the real $Pbam$ structure of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$. The simplified structure $P4/nbm$ (No.127, $Z=2$), shown in Fig.10, has only one triple layer in the unit cell. It is characterized by the same equal a and b parameters as the real structure, but twice shorter c parameter. From symmetry considerations $8A_{1g} + 2B_{1g} + 5B_{2g} + 14E_g$ modes are Raman active. The A_{1g} modes, allowed in xx and zz spectra, correspond to A_g modes in orthorhombic

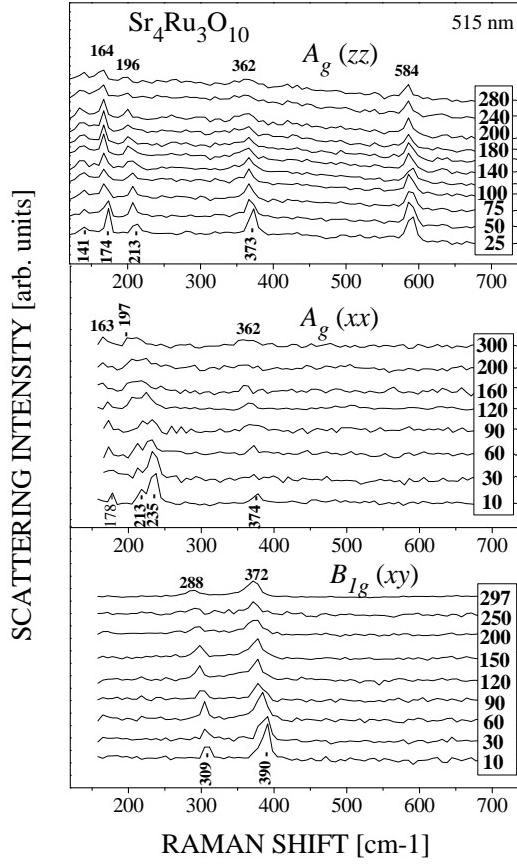


FIG. 9: Variation with T of the zz , xx and xy spectra of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$.

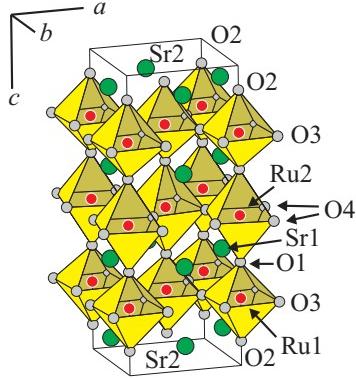


FIG. 10: Simplified distorted structure of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$: $P4/mbm$, No.127, $Z=2$.

$Pbam$, whereas the tetragonal B_{2g} modes, allowed in the xy spectra, correspond to the orthorhombic B_{1g} modes. Compared to the simplified structure of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$, there are three new $A_{1g}(A_g)$ modes corresponding to: (i) Rotations of middle RuO_6 octahedra; (ii) Vibrations along z of internal apex oxygen atoms ($\text{O}1$); (iii) Vibrations along z of internal $\text{Sr}1$ atoms. The LDC predict close frequen-

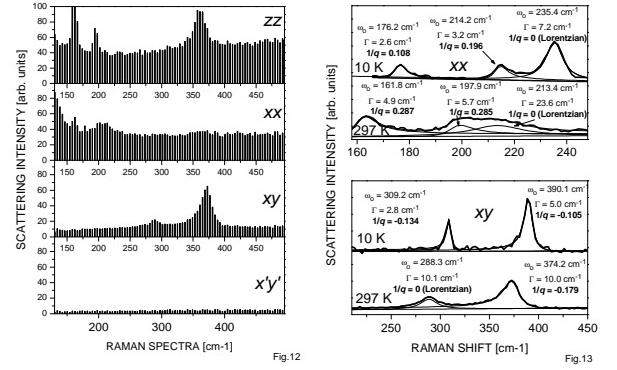


FIG. 11: Left panel: Continuum scattering in the spectra of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ obtained with 633 nm excitation; Right panels: Fano fits $xx(A_g)$ and $xy(B_{1g})$ spectra of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ obtained with 515 nm excitation at 10 K and 300 K. The fit parameters are also given.

cies for the rotational and $\text{Sr}1$ modes and our assignment of the new xx polarized A_g line, seen at low temperature at 235 cm^{-1} and also having a "soft"-mode temperature behavior, to rotational vibrations of middle RuO_6 octahedra is only tentative. There is little doubt that the new A_g lines at 745 cm^{-1} , seen in the xx spectra with 488 nm excitation, correspond to the vibrations along z of the inner $\text{O}1$ atoms. Using Eq.(1) with the experimental values of $r_{\text{O}1-\text{Ru}2} = 1.991 \text{ \AA}$, $r_{\text{O}1-\text{Ru}1} = 2.014 \text{ \AA}$ and $r_{\text{O}2-\text{Ru}1} = 2.077 \text{ \AA}$, $r_{\text{O}2-\text{Sr}2'} = 2.380 \text{ \AA}$ one obtains frequency of $\text{O}1$ vibrations along z should be by factor 1.35 higher than that of the outer apex oxygens ($\text{O}2$). This is in good agreement with the experimentally observed ratio of $745:584 = 1.28$. A comparison of phonon frequencies predicted by LDC with experimental data is given in Table II.

The left panel of Fig.11 illustrates the presence in the zz , xx and xy spectra of $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ of scattering continuum. Like in the case of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$, some lines exhibit clear Fano shape for light polarization parallel to the ab plane. This is shown in more detail in the right panels of Fig.11.

The ferromagnetic ordering at $T=105 \text{ K}$ has a moderate, but clearly pronounced effect on phonon parameters and electron-phonon interaction. The temperature dependencies of the position (Fig.12a) and width (Fig.12b) of the Fano shaped B_{1g} line, corresponding to $\text{O}3$ vibrations in the xy plane, change their slope near T_C . The changes of $1/q(T) \propto V(T)$ (Fig.12c) are even more pronounced, providing evidence that the electron-phonon coupling decreases in the ferromagnetic phase. Weaker changes near T_C of the parameters of the second B_{1g} line, corresponding to $\text{O}3$ vibrations in z direction, are also observed (Figs.12d and 12e).

The magnetic ordering may affect phonon frequency through different mechanisms: exchange stric-

TABLE II: Calculated and experimentally observed A_{1g} and B_{1g} phonon frequencies in $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$. The corresponding modes in the simplified $P4/mbm$ structure are also given.

Mode <i>Pbam</i>	LDC <i>Pbam</i>	Exp 300K/10K	Atomic motions	Mode <i>P4/mbm</i>	Mode <i>Pbam</i>	LDC <i>Pbam</i>	Exp 300K/10K	Atomic motions	Mode <i>P4/mbm</i>
$A_g^{(1)}$	90	129/140	outer RuO ₆ rot in <i>xy</i>	A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(1)}$	147			
$A_g^{(2)}$	150	163/178	Ru1(<i>z</i>)Sr2(<i>z</i>)	A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(2)}$	151			
$A_g^{(3)}$	173			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(3)}$	175			B_{2g}
$A_g^{(4)}$	190	198/214	Sr2(<i>z</i>)Ru1(<i>z</i>)	A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(4)}$	176			
$A_g^{(5)}$	198			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(5)}$	185			B_{2g}
$A_g^{(6)}$	210			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(6)}$	188			
$A_g^{(7)}$	231	213/235	middle RuO ₆ rot in <i>xy</i>	A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(7)}$	327	288/307	O3(<i>z</i> , <i>-z</i>)	B_{2g}
$A_g^{(8)}$	234			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(8)}$	327			
$A_g^{(9)}$	286			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(9)}$	354	373/388	O3(<i>xy</i>)	B_{2g}
$A_g^{(10)}$	288			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(10)}$	356			
$A_g^{(11)}$	309			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(11)}$	464			
$A_g^{(12)}$	313			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(12)}$	464			B_{2g}
$A_g^{(13)}$	358	361/372	O3(<i>z</i>)	A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(13)}$	476			
$A_g^{(14)}$	364			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(14)}$	476			
$A_g^{(15)}$	512	533/	O3(<i>xy</i>)	A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(15)}$	482			
$A_g^{(16)}$	514			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(16)}$	482			
$A_g^{(17)}$	552	584/588	O2(<i>z</i>)	A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(17)}$	708			
$A_g^{(18)}$	562			A_{1g}	$B_{1g}^{(18)}$	708			
$A_g^{(19)}$	678	745/	O1(<i>z</i>)	A_{1g}					
$A_g^{(20)}$	678								

tion, [15, 22] dependence of the spin energy on ion displacements[22, 23, 24], variations of the density of itinerant carriers near T_M .[14] Although consistent with observation of anomaly in $1/q$, the latter mechanism, proposed to explain the anomalous hardening near T_C of several Raman modes in ferromagnetic SrRuO_3 , is irrespective to the bond lengths and band angles being modulated and seems to be of less importance in $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$. The observation of detectable anomaly near T_C only for modes, which modulate the Ru1-O3-Ru1 angle, rather favors direct interaction of these phonons with the magnetization.[22, 24].

IV. CONCLUSIONS

We studied in detail the polarized Raman spectra of Sr_2RuO_4 , $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ and $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$ with particular attention to the two latter compounds as their phonon spectra have not been reported so far. All observed Raman lines are of either A_g or B_{1g} symmetry. They have been assigned to definite atomic vibrations by: (1) considering the Raman active modes in simplified tetragonal $P4/nbm$ and $P4/mbm$ structures, which contain only one double or triple RuO₆ layers per unit cell and account for the rotational distortions; (2) comparison to the

predictions of lattice dynamical calculations for the real orthorhombic double layer $Pbna$ and triple layer $Pbam$ structures. Except for the discrete phonon lines, a continuum background, presumably of electronic origin, is present in the *zz*, *xx* and *xy*, but not in the *x'y'* and *zx* spectra. The interaction of *xx* and *xy* continuum with the modes involving atomic motions in the *ab* plane results in Fano shape of corresponding Raman lines. While no anomaly in phonon parameters of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Ru}_2\text{O}_7$ is seen between 10 and 300 K, where no magnetic transition occur, an anomaly is observed near ferromagnetic transition at 105 K in $\text{Sr}_4\text{Ru}_3\text{O}_{10}$.

Acknowledgments

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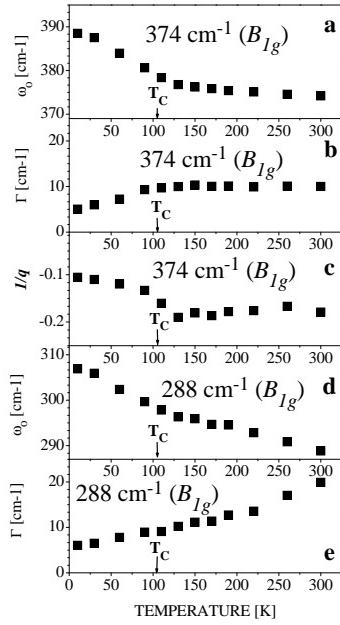


FIG. 12: Variations with T of (a): ω_0 , (b): Γ , and (c): $1/q \sim V$ for the Fano shaped B_{1g} line at $374/389\text{ cm}^{-1}$. No anomaly near T_C is observed, however, for the position (d) and the width (e) of the Lorentzian B_{1g} line at $288/308\text{ cm}^{-1}$.

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